

The Progressive Farmer.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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RALEIGH, N. C., MAR. 4, 1890.

This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Raleigh, N. C.

The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance.

Do you want your paper changed to another office? State the one at which you have been getting it.

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Our friends in writing to any of our advertisers, will favor us by mentioning the fact that they saw the advertisement in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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U. S. STATISTICS.

THE census year began June 1st, 1889, and closes May 31, 1890; this includes statistics of crops, manufactures, mining, etc.

The law limits the number of supervisors to 175, and are divided between the States in proportion to size and population. Robt. P. Porter is Superintendent and after his appointment he issued through the press notification to the farmers, and in that notice there is food for thought.

First, "The object is to have the census full, complete and correct."

When the enumerator in June, 1890, goes from house to house let it not be said in North Carolina as in most States "that the statements you make are guess-work." The charge is, and unfortunately too true "that farmers do not keep books, hence the returns are guess-work." Forty thousand enumerators will be in the field—an average of between 1600 and 1700 to each officer and the object is to complete the work in three weeks or less.

On the basis of population as taken by the census, each State will get its proportion of representatives in the U. S. Congress.

DON'T WEAKEN THE PRESS.

SEVERAL excellent State papers are talking about making a Governor of Mr. J. P. Caldwell, editor of the Statesville Landmark. Bro. Caldwell would grace any office within the gift of the people; but we respectfully ask them to go slow. A man can be a good editor and yet make a very sorry public official. On the other hand few Governors would be a success as journalists. Then do not try to make politicians out of the most useful ornaments of the profession. There are dozens of men in our State who will make creditable Governors. But first-class newspaper men are scarce. Sing Bro. Caldwell's fame and shower money upon him, but never let him hold any office except a newspaper office. But we have no fears. Bro. Caldwell loves the profession too well, to accept any nomination.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

DURING the excitement on the fisheries in 1886, the War Department at Washington, through Adjutant-General R. C. Drum, sent out a secret circular to each of the States to get certain information in regard to the national guard or militia. He urges "that this enquiry and any subsequent correspondence on the matter may be considered strictly confidential, the object of the department to gather this and all kindred information in a quiet manner. And here is the information sought for:

First—Location and strength of the various organizations by regiments, independent companies, troops, and batteries, together with a statement as to the proportion of each that could be relied upon for prompt active service for nine months—the full period which the law authorizes them to be called out by the President, which is the best drilled, as skirmishers, which contains the most expert riflemen; which the most workmen in wood and iron.

Second—The least time required by divisions, brigades, and regiments for concentration within the State at Cleveland, in case of emergency, by the most rapid means of transportation, etc.

Third—A statement showing the character and amount of ammunition, clothing, camp and garrison equipment,

etc., and wagon transportation on hand and needed by the troops in case they should be required to concentrate at a given point to repel foreign invasion or prevent domestic violence of magnitude.

Fourth—Any other information which you may deem valuable to the general government bearing upon this general subject of the militia in conjunction with the national forces in the event of a sudden war with a foreign power.

I am, sir, very respectfully your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant General.

Mr. Foraker was Governor of Ohio at that time, and this circular has been hidden away until he got into a rumper recently, when it was unearthed and given to the public. We presume the Governor of North Carolina also received one. The circular states that a division has been established in the War Department styled "the division of military information."

We wish to remark that standing armies are a menace to civil liberty and are dangerous to our free government. If all this information which is obtained in this secret manner is to provide against foreign invasion or foreign war and the exigencies of the situation demanded it, then it is all well enough. But if the obtaining of this secret information in this secret way to be put in some mysterious vault for future use, is a part of the plan for mobilizing a mighty army in this free land, it should attract the attention of the people, and we are frank to say that it is by no means clear of suspicion. "Prevent domestic violence of magnitude." When? Where? The best safeguard for the free enjoyment of the guarantees of constitutional liberty is in the law abiding hearts of our people. We need more justice and less brass buttons and ammunition—more talk about bread and clothing and fuel for our suffering thousands and less about the military and coast defences, etc.

But what does it mean?

WE ASK PARDON.

WE must ask our readers to pardon our giving so much space for the reproduction of a number of much appreciated complimentary notices of this paper lately. No one is better prepared to say whether a paper is good or not than an experienced journalist, and no conscientious newspaper man will compliment another paper unless it has merits; hence we are grateful to our fellow-editors and will ever strive to deserve the respect and confidence of our journalistic friends.

THE FARMING INTERESTS BEFORE CONGRESS.

IT will be remembered that the St. Louis Convention adopted what is popularly known as the Sub-Treasury plan. It is intended to give the country and the farmers a system by and through which we may secure a flexible volume of currency and sufficient in amount to accommodate the demands of trade and the business of the country. We want and should have a volume that would expand or contract as the demands of trade required. As it is the farmer is forced to sell his products on a glutted market—forced to sell when his products are cheapest and buy when the needed commodities are dearest. We have in this country, in gold and silver coin, bank notes and certificates, only fourteen hundred and seven millions of dollars, all told, and if every dollar was in circulation it would give only \$21.75 per capita. During the last four months in the year, beginning with September, we put on the market about seven billions of dollars worth of agricultural products to be handled by this one billion four hundred million dollars, granting that every dollar is in circulation, but we have shown time and again that only a little more than one-third of that sum is in circulation. In fact we go into the markets at every disadvantage. We have our products manipulated and valued at the will of the money power of the land. According to our calculation we have in circulation, at the time it is most needed, one dollar to move thirteen and a half dollars worth of products. Does any sane man not know that this condition makes the dollar high and the products low? The farmers want reform and relief in this matter, and in pursuance of the action of the St. Louis Convention, a bill has been introduced into the lower House of Congress by Representative Pickler, of South Dakota, and in this Senate by Senator Vance. These bills will elicit much discussion, doubtless, but we are gratified to say that they are being earnestly considered by the leading minds in both branches. We shall note particularly and regularly any developments in this great matter and keep our readers informed.

Bro. W. H. Swing, President of Sandy Grove Alliance, No. 1,520, Chatham county, writes that his Alliance has 22 male and 8 female members; have paid a small amount to the Business Agency fund, and that their members have decided to buy no fruit trees from agents.

THE ALLIANCE IN VIRGINIA.

BRO. SILVEY, State Secretary of the Farmers' Alliance of Virginia, paid this office a friendly visit on the 26th of February. He informs us that 56 counties are now organized and four about ready to be organized. They have 750 Sub-Alliances and 25,000 members. He issued 65 charters last month and over 50 up to the 24th.

Mr. Brad. Beverly, son of Col. Robt. Beverly, of Targular, is now State Organizer and Lecturer for the State, and he is a very intelligent gentleman and said to be a very forcible speaker.

We shall be proud indeed to find old Virginia in line, and we feel that she will soon take her place in the rank of States with 50,000 good and true Alliancemen who will effect a great change in the success of the financial policy of the State.

JUST A LITTLE THING.

JUST a word to our friends. Are your neighbors subscribers to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER? Have you brethren in your Alliance who are not subscribers? Have you brethren who have allowed their subscription to expire? Have you ever spoken to these neighbors and brethren in regard to the matter? If not, will you not, as a friend to the paper and to the great cause it advocates, do so now? If you have spoken to them, will you not do so again? We are persuaded that our paper has many warm friends in every Alliance in the State. We respectfully ask every one who reads this to do one thing for the paper—it is a small thing, and yet it would result in a great thing for the paper and the cause. At the next meeting of your Alliance ask permission to speak a word for the paper. Get all the new subscribers you can. Get all to renew whose time has expired or whose time will soon expire. If any member be in arrears, get him to pay the money to you and forward it to this office. A kind compliance with this simple request will help us greatly—it will help your Alliance—it will aid our cause and it will make you feel better. Who will do it? Let every subscriber make just this one little effort for the paper. We feel that in no way can the Alliance be so surely strengthened and encouraged as by having the organ in the hands and homes of its members. An increase of only one subscriber from each Alliance in our State would help. How many will give us their aid?

THE HEADLIGHT OF THE FIRST TRAIN.

A National Surprise.

Among the Associated Press dispatches we find the following:

"CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—The annual report of the Chicago and Alton Railroad Company recommends government control of railroads. The question of railway legislation by the State and by the general government is treated at great length in the report, and the statement is made that railroad property has been greatly oppressed thereby. The report proceeds as follows:

"It is said that we should not complain unless prepared to suggest a remedy. We will therefore suggest the ownership of railroads by the national government and the organization of the corps of railroad operators, who shall remain in the service during good behavior, and be in no greater degree under the influence of politicians or political parties than the army militia. The outline of our suggestion may be stated as follows:

First—The national government shall acquire the ownership of all the railroads in the United States which are now used for interstate traffic; such railroads to be acquired by the exercise of its right of eminent domain, or by purchase, under such limitations and rules as to price as Congress may determine.

Second—Payment therefore to be made by the issue of government bonds bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 3 per cent. per annum, said bonds to be redeemed by the annual application of a sinking fund equal in amount to 1 per cent. of the whole amount of such bonds issued; the annual interest and sinking fund to be paid from the net earnings of the railroads, and the rates for transportation from year to year to be reduced so as to provide no more money than shall be needed for such payment.

Other details are then elaborated at considerable length, the chief features being a proposal that the government of the roads and the making of rates be vested in a board of national railroad directors, and that all railway employees after one year's service shall not be subject to discharge without cause and proper investigation.

The report gives the following figures for 1889:

Gross earnings, \$7,516,616; increase, \$5,151. Operating expense, \$4,571,726; decrease, \$96,348. Net earnings, \$2,944,890; increase, \$101,500."

This Company operates one of the most important lines, connecting the cities of Chicago and St. Louis. And it boldly declares in favor of government ownership of railroads.

This report is significant. It clearly

indicates that in the rapid development and growth of corporate interest, with all its attendant power, capital is distrustful of its ability to maintain its dominating influence. It shrinks from the hazardous uncertainty which must ensue in the struggling competition, the charges and vicissitudes, which necessarily attend a progress so wonderful and marvelous as that which has marked railroad enterprise in our country for the past two decades. It may be that in a calm and deliberate survey of the situation, this Company has discovered that the American people are preparing to call a halt and to have a readjustment, and that it is wise to prepare for the inevitable. However that may be, its report is in accord with a conviction which is fast growing upon the clear and most conservative thinkers of our time. One of the gravest and most stupendous economic problems of the day is being constantly revolved in the minds of the people.

SHALL THE GOVERNMENT CONTROL THE RAILROADS, OR SHALL THE RAILROADS CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT?

They feel that the time has arrived when this great question of national import should be calmly and dispassionately considered and settled. It is needless to recount the causes which have forced this question upon the public mind. They may be seen and read of all men.

Indeed, the assumptions and encroachments of corporate power, and the dominating, insatiable greed of capital have aroused grave apprehension, if not alarm, in the public mind, lest in their lust for gain they may overturn and destroy our form of government and our liberties. The people are fast coming to the conclusion that the rights of the citizens would be better secured and the public interest better served for the government to own the transportation and telegraph lines and give to the people the benefit of their service at the cost of operating them. It is held, too, by many that the principles should apply to towns and cities as well, in the matter of water supply, gas and electric plants and street railways. That the municipalities should own and control them in the interest of all the people, for whose use and comfort they are designed. That this great question will force itself before the bar of public opinion for settlement, in the very near future, no one can doubt, who will read the signs of the times. The citizen will be a juror in this case and it is his plain duty, therefore, to inform himself as thoroughly as possible that he may make up his verdict impartially and on the great principles of equity and justice.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

*Bros. Beddingfield and Dunn are keeping things down fine in the office of the State Secretary.

*Bro. W. H. Worth attended the State Sunday School Convention which was in session in Wilmington last week. He was a delegate.

*We hope the members of our order will carefully read the official notices, appointments, etc., in every issue of this paper. It is important.

*We are indebted to many friends for handsome clubs of new subscribers and renewals to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. May your shadows never grow less.

*THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is having a little boom about this time. Our friends in other States are doing faithful work. We received a club of ten subscribers from West Virginia Saturday. Thanks, kind friends.

*Bro. E. C. Beddingfield was among the visitors to the Newberne Fair from Raleigh. He was called on for a speech on Wednesday, and though he was unprepared, the Journal speaks of the address in flattering terms.

*Owing to his rapidly growing business, Bro. Worth has decided to get the assistance of an experienced stenographer and typewriter. Miss Lucy Brooks, of Lenoir county, a graduate of Greensboro Female College, has accepted the position. She arrived here and began work last Saturday.

*The business agency will now be better prepared than ever to transact business. Mr. J. F. Bell, ex-business agent of Franklin county, is chief book-keeper, and with the able assistance of Messrs. J. M. Dye, A. L. Ferrell and W. H. Harrison, the office is splendidly equipped. Bro. S. Otho Wilson, who is a hustler of hustlers, is travelling all the time in the interest of the agency. Brethren, a brighter day will surely dawn.

*The article "Don't Weaken the Press" was written before the Landmark containing such a flattering reference to this paper was received, which reference we reproduce in another column. If our contemporaries had been talking about President instead of "Governor" Caldwell it might have been different. No, we will not say it. The press, if it exerts itself in the right direction, can do more to redeem this country than all the public officials from President down to township constable. Let Bro. Caldwell alone.

JOURNALISTIC.

What the Knights of the Quill are Doing.

The Raleigh Christian Sun, an excellent religious newspaper, was 46 years old on the 17th of February.

The Lexington Dispatch has been purchased by Mr. Jno. B. Sherrill, of Concord, who will continue to publish a weekly paper.

The Rocky Mount Plaindealer has gone into "summer quarters," and will not appear again until next fall. We shall sadly miss this bright and always interesting exchange.

The Raleigh Biblical Recorder, that sterling journal which has long been the organ of the Baptist denomination in this State, will come out this week in a new dress and a number of improvements. It deserves immense patronage, and we wish it continued prosperity.

The Daily Chronicle, a new morning paper, will appear in this city on the 6th inst., with Mr. Josephus Daniels editor in chief and Mr. D. H. Browder business manager. It will have a strong staff and everything else required for a first-class modern news paper. It will take press dispatches.

MORE KIND WORDS.

"THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is five years old and is an excellent paper.—Christian Sun.

"THE RALEIGH PROGRESSIVE FARMER has entered upon its fifth year. It has never been better edited than now.—Robesonian.

"THE RALEIGH PROGRESSIVE FARMER has entered upon its fifth year. It is a good paper, well edited, and a warm advocate of the farmer's interest.—Charlotte Chronicle.

"THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has entered upon its fifth volume. It is ably edited and no one of our exchanges is more valuable to, or more highly esteemed by the Patriot. We wish it continued prosperity.—Greensboro Patriot.

"THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, a true and able and zealous friend of the farmers, and by the way a most useful and instructive and interesting paper, is five years old, and with every indication of a vigorous life of usefulness and prosperity.—Wilson Mirror.

"THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has entered upon its fifth year under very promising prospects. It is a great favorite with the farmers throughout this State, in whose interests it labors. It being the great Alliance organ, has become a power for good, and its editorials are widely quoted.—Goldsboro Headlight.

"THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has entered upon its fifth year, and in that short time has met with wonderful success. It is ably edited and its position as organ of the Farmers' Alliance makes it a power in the State. In its efforts to better the farmers' condition it has our support and best wishes.—Press and Carolinian.

The Newberne Daily Journal extended a most cordial welcome to the representative of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in that city last week and in the issue of the 26th ult. says: "THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is a power in the State, and is eminently worthy of the large and increasing patronage so liberally bestowed upon it by the intelligent and progressive agriculturists of the land."

THE NEWBERNE FAIR.

The Best Exhibition Held Yet—Many New Features.

The run from Raleigh to Goldsboro is over a road which is the equal for speed, comfort, etc., of any in the State.

The beautifully situated and growing city of Goldsboro is reached, and then we travel over the Atlantic & N. C. Road.

The scenery on every side, while not picturesque, is grand. It is an ever changing panorama of pretty villages, neat farms; the truck farms especially, are very fine. However, much of the land between Goldsboro and Newberne is of but little value, it being swamps overgrown with huckleberry bushes.

There is some fine truck farming around Goldsboro and Kinston, but the land about Newberne is hardly equalled anywhere.

Those who go to Newberne with the expectation of finding a dull, smoky old town may be somewhat disappointed. While not strictly a resort city, yet a large amount of shipping is done. The city is excellently situated, and nearly surrounded by water of sufficient depth for large steamers. Vessels ply regularly between Newberne and Charleston, Norfolk, New York and other ports.

As Newberne is situated at the confluence of the Neuse and Trent rivers, which together form a stream nearly two miles wide, forming a splendid outlet to the ocean, there is no reason it should not become one of the most important cities on the Atlantic coast.

The most considerable trade here consists of naval stores, lumber, shingles, canned goods, fish, oysters and cotton.

Newberne contains several handsome churches, and many nice private dwellings. From the number of

prosperous stores, it is evident that that they do a good business in that line.

The Fair was formally opened on Tuesday by Gov. Fowle. The attendance was fair, and by Wednesday morning the number of visitors was quite good.

Some idea of the exhibits can be gained by a glance at the name of the association, which is, "The Fish, Oyster, Game and Industrial Exhibition."

As a fair it undoubtedly is a success. The grounds are pleasantly situated and conveniently arranged. The usual array of "flying jennies," "fat babies," and big turnips and potatoes and the like are on hand, smiling complacently, as usual. But aside from this the show is as good as the best county fair. The industrial department contained many evidences of the skill of men, and Floral Hall hundreds of both useful and ornamental articles, worthy of the fair East Carolina ladies' hands who made and placed them there.

The fish, oyster and game collection was said to be the best gotten up department. It could hardly be better. This collection embraced almost everything to be found in this State and some things not to be found even in the United States.

The grounds are lighted at night by a good electric plant, hence almost as many visitors go out at night as in daylight. One of the novelties at night is a fine display of fireworks and balloon ascensions. Another new feature is a comfortable apartment called the "editorial room." It was for the accommodation of all visiting newspaper men.

Col. J. D. Cameron, of the Asheville Citizen, was on hand with a handsome illustrated issue of his paper. Editor Latham, of the Washington Gazette, was the only newspaper man who came loaded for bear. He had a neat little "coop" built of colored paper, and as he is one of the handsomest young editors in all the country, naturally the ladies all gave him a call. Mr. T. O. Kelly represented the Goldsboro Dispatch, Maj. Eugene Harrell the North Carolina Teacher, and possibly other North Carolina papers will be represented. Mr. Charles Hallock, editor of the American Angler, and Mr. Joseph Beckers, of Harper's Weekly, both of New York, were present.

NOTES.

Newberne has one advantage over nearly all other cities. Her streets need no paving, no macadamizing.

The Atlantic & N. C. engineers run their engines in a first-class manner, and still find time to kill sufficient cattle, hogs and sheep to furnish fresh meat daily for all the people between Goldsboro and Newberne.

We are indebted to Bro. E. Harper, business manager and associate editor of the Daily Journal, for many courtesies. His kindness is unlimited.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, OF RALEIGH.

This paper, the organ of the State Farmers' Alliance, has just entered upon a new volume, and the press generally has referred to the fact and noted the improvement in the paper. The Landmark, however, is one of the few that is into the secret of the improvement. It is due to the fact that THE FARMER has lately added to its regular staff Mr. J. L. Ramsey, of this county, who had for some months been a traveling correspondent of the paper. The Landmark detected Mr. Ramsey's hand on THE FARMER from the outset. He got his start as a correspondent of this paper and has Landmark ways about him which he has carried into his work at Raleigh. This is the secret of the increased interest noticed in the columns of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and THE Landmark says so with pride but with becoming modesty. Mr. Ramsey is a bright and original young man and is receptive to a degree. We are proud of the start he has made in his regular journalistic career and wish for him in it fame and fortune. Meantime we congratulate THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER upon this valuable acquisition to its columns and trust that its unparalleled success may continue undiminished.—Statesville Landmark.

Some objections are made to the sub-treasury plan because it is assumed that an enormous expansion of currency would take place at certain seasons of the year, as in the fall and winter, when the larger portion of the crops are marketed. The correct answer to that objection is this: There must be at that time under any system an expansion of some kind of currency. Which is preferable, a currency that costs but 1 per cent. per annum, or a credit currency in the form of checks, drafts, bills of lading, etc., that costs the producer at last 20 per cent. per annum? As it now stands 2 1/2 per cent. of the business is done for cash that costs the own nothing, and 9 1/2 per cent. is done with credit currency that costs many more times what those who handle it are aware of. The money set afloat by the sub-treasury plan will simply take the place of checks, drafts, etc., and will really be a contraction instead of an inflation. It can be obtained more easily, is much cheaper, and makes the farmer independent.—National Economist.